Creation Matters

Fall 2022
Volume 27 Number 4

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The 2022 Creation Research Society Conference: Engaging, Cutting-edge, and Uplifting

by Tate Fonville, PhD and Mark Horstemeyer, PhD

"It's an amazing experience. For anyone who enjoys thinking about God and science, it's a great place to meet a bunch of very nice people and think deeply about the marvels of God."

Liberty University hosted the Creation Research Society's largest annual conference comprising 186 registered attendees. Members from the CRS came for engaging workshops, cutting-edge presentations, and uplifting networking from July 21st-23rd.

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Workshops

The workshops focused on different areas

Joseph Kezele: CRS's Newest Fellow

Dr. Joseph Kezele was recently honored with the rank of Fellow by the CRS board of directors because of his outstanding service to the Society. Dr. Kezele has been a friend and supporter of CRS for many years, but his recent help fulfilled a crucial need. In 2022 the sudden death of Dr. Kevin Anderson left multiple classes that needed to be taught to fulfill CRS's contract with Arizona Christian University. Dr. Kezele quickly volunteered and took over all the classes Dr. Anderson was slated to teach.

Dr. Kezele received his M. D. from the University of Arizona in 1975. He was an emergency physician for 25 years in the Phoenix area hospitals. Dr. Kezele has been the president of the Arizona Origin and Science Association since 2005 and a professor at Arizona Christian University since 2011. He has taught up to 5 classes each semester at ACU in the biology department.

A person may be designated as a Fellow based on outstanding scholarship and service to the Society. An individual must receive a favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors.

Congratulations, Dr. Kezele!

Math Matters

Euclid of Alexandria

by Don DeYoung, PhD

The name of Euclid echoes throughout mathematics. This Greek scholar (~300 B.C.) wrote 13 books comprising the single title *Elements*. This may be the most successful textbook ever written, still in print after 23 centuries with over 1,000 editions and surpassed only by the Bible.

The *Elements* includes 465 math propositions or postulates with geometric proofs. Some of the statements appear trivial such as Postulate 1: A straight line may be drawn between any two points. However, this formal expression of mathematics was new territory. Later postulates include the exploration of prime numbers and the volumes of cylinders and pyramids. Euclid's proofs are deductive, drawing conclusions from previously known facts. The approach has broad applications including the scientific method, logic, philosophy and law.

Mathematics has always been useful to mankind. This includes the alloying of metals by Tubal-Cain (Gen 4:22), the construction of Noah's Ark, and the scientific studies of Daniel (Daniel 1:17). What distinguishes the *Elements* as the gold standard of geometric math for 2000 years is the inclusion of elegant, rigorous proofs. The *Elements* would have been included in the scholarship of the New Testament Apostle Paul. Until the contents were rewritten in other textbooks, the *Elements* was required reading in all American schools. I suspect that many current high school students endure geometry class without realizing the significance of this material.

A papyrus fragment of Euclid's *Elements* dated circa A.D. 100 (Wikipedia).

Little personal information is known about Euclid. Most likely he studied under Plato and compiled the mathematics of earlier scholars. Euclid's era was immersed in Greek culture with its myriad of deities. An unsubstantiated quote is often attributed to Euclid: "The laws nature are but the mathematical thoughts of God." Whether or not the quote belongs to him, Euclid knew that mathematics was logical, useful and majestic. Math is indeed the language of Creation, revealing God's fingerprint throughout nature. CM

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Creation Matters

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2022 CRS Conference

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of historical creation study: astronomy (led by Danny Faulkner from Answers in Genesis), biology (led by Rob Carter from Creation Ministries International), education (led by Mike Riddle from the Creation Training Initiative), and geology ((led by Marcus Ross, Liberty School of Engineering (LUSE) Adjunct Professor and Cornerstone Educational Supply owner). The Astronomy Workshop group visited the Liberty University Observatory and started a discussion encouraging Liberty University to use the observatory as a location for Creation Science research. During the tour, Danny Faulkner helped the Liberty University technicians garner this photo of the Ring Nebula.

The Geology Workshop group went on a field trip exploring the Precambrian to Cambrian metamorphic rocks of the Lynchburg, Virginia area. Over 30 participants joined the trip, which included visiting a local greenstone/metabasalt quarry for mineral collecting. The Biology Workshop group discussed a wide variety of topics including population modeling, problems in baraminology, genetic entropy, the meaning of "information" in biology, and the ethical issues involved in stem cell and cloning research, specifically as this relates to the use of fetal cells derived from abortion. The Education Workshop group discussed why the church is losing the education wars and how to fight back with well-prepared, engaging, and informative presentations that ensure students are equipped to defend their faith.

Presentations

Rob Carter gave the plenary presentation Friday morning, offering a new paradigm on Baraminology. Ying Liu of Liberty University gave the plenary presentation on Saturday morning, elucidating the history and effects of Covid from a biblical perspective. All meetings were well at-

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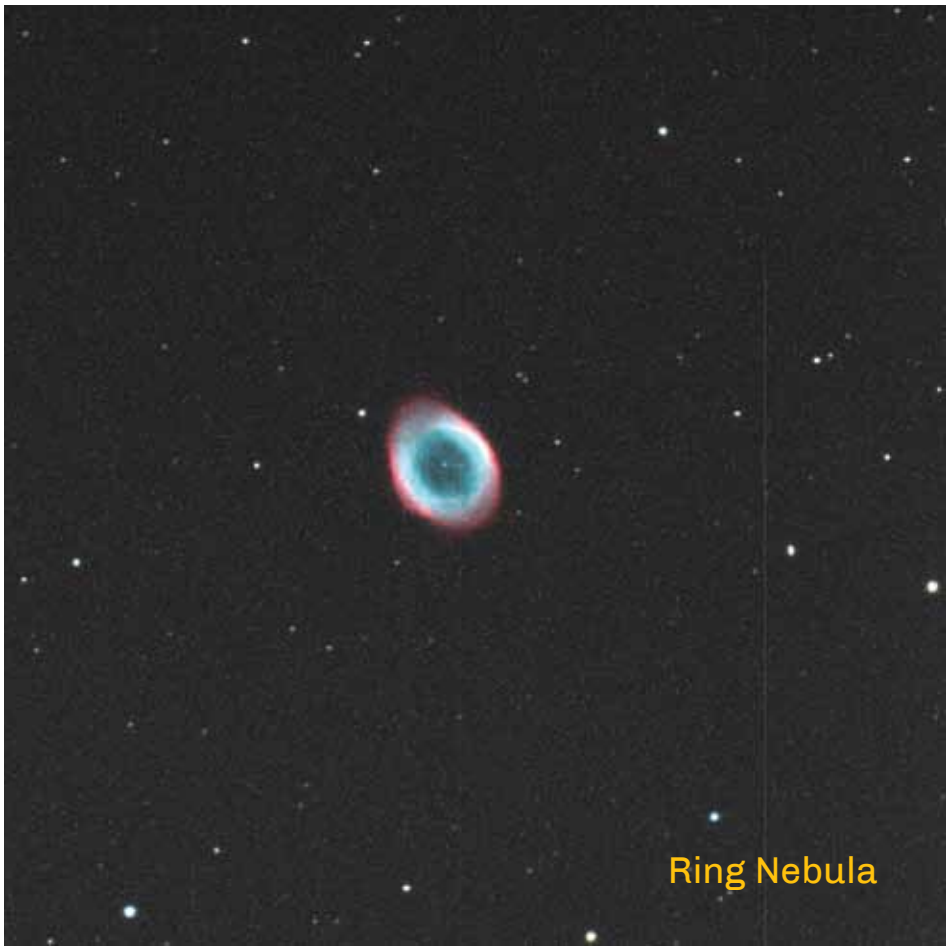


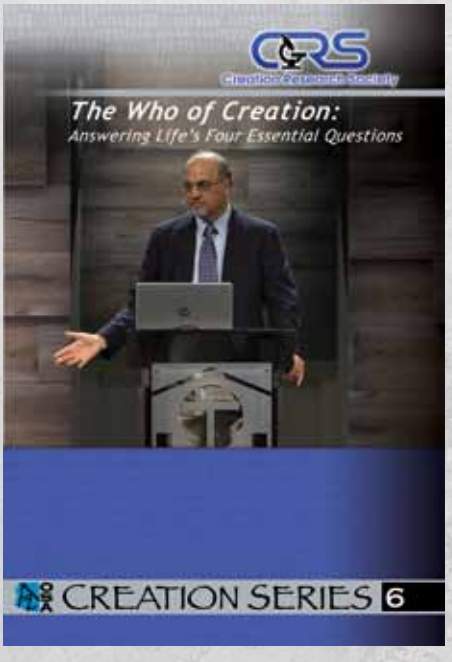
Available in the CRS Bookstore

The Who of Creation:
Answering Life's Four Essential Questions DVD

Do you have questions about life and purpose? In 38 minutes, Kevin Anderson, PhD weaves scientific insights with timeless knowledge to answer:

1. Where did I come from?
2. Why am I here?
3. What is my purpose?
4. Where am I going?

Your life matters. And so do the lives of the people around you. And all of them matter because of one Person: The Who of Creation. Embrace the four questions. Consider the answers. Meet the one Person. The truth may surprise you.



www.creationresearch.org/store • 877-CRS-BOOK

2022 CRS Conference

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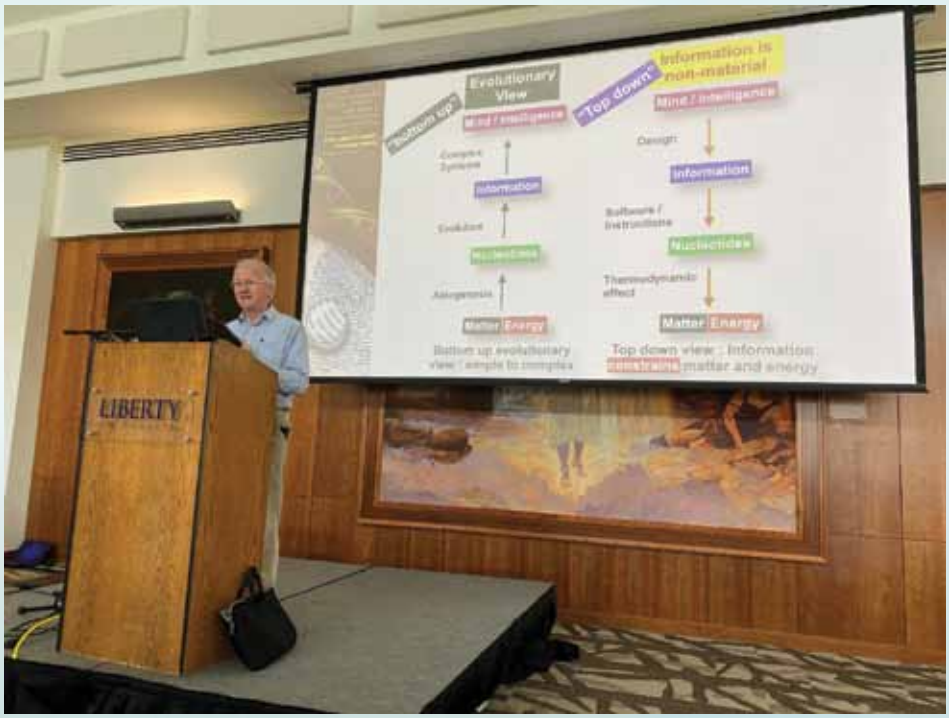
tended. Following the plenary talks, Friday's and Saturday's conference sessions featured twenty-four 30-minute presentations followed by question-and-answer periods

Liberty University School of Engineering Research Professor Emeritus Dr. John Baumgardner sponsored four students who gave presentations at the conference.

Dr. Andy McIntosh, who holds an emeritus chair in thermodynamics at the University of Leeds in Great Britain, gave the Henry Morris Memorial Lecture on Friday night (see figure) entitled "Henry Morris' Legacy and His Affect in Modern Culture." This presentation was open to the public and was received very well.



Networking

The attendees were uplifted, engaged, and connected during the conference. Uplifting fellowship is one of the best parts of this conference; 44% of the attendees surveyed stated that it was the fellowship that was their favorite part of the conference. Attendees could be spotted engaging in conversation on the way to and from meals, between and during lectures, or at workshops. Many of these discussions ended in exchanging contact information. Most of those connections were to partner with projects or as invitations to come and speak at their church or regional creation group.

Here are some comments made by attendees:

> "Even if you are not a scientist, there are sessions you will find helpful for personal, spiritual, and educational growth."

> "You will learn much and find that the society is full of people who love God, His Word, and science--just like you do."

> "The CRS conferences are a great opportunity to learn from creation scientists, hear about new research that's being done in creationism, and have thought-provoking discussions with like-minded people. If you're interested in digging deeper into creation science studies, you should come!"

The abstracts of the presentations will be published in an upcoming issue of *Creation Research Society Quarterly.* No recordings of the presentations were made.

Next year, the CRS will not host the annual conference in support of the International Conference on Creationism to be held at Cedarville University in Ohio (https://www.internationalconferenceoncreationism.com/). The 2024 CRS conference will be held at the Ark Encounter in Kentucky July 25-27.

CRS is looking for a new Lab Director

The CRS Lab Director oversees the research and operational activities at the beautiful facilities of Van Andel Creation Research Center in Glendale, AZ.

More information and an application are available on the website:

See https://www.creationresearch.org/job-at-crs

Evolution and the Coronavirus

by Andrew Repp, PhD

If you ask for examples of evolution, you might hear about Galapagos finches, or about peppered moths—or, more recently, about the coronavirus. An article in *The Atlantic* begins,

> If evolution is a numbers game, the coronavirus is especially good at playing it. Over the past year and a half, it's copied itself quickly and sloppily in hundreds of millions of hosts, and hit upon a glut of genetic jackpots that further facilitate its spread (Wu, 2021).

Some of these mutations reached national news, so that "delta" and "omicron" became almost household words. People

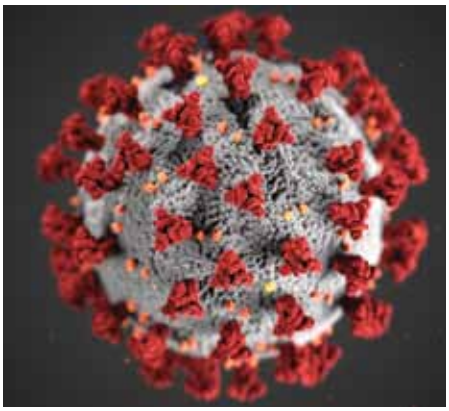
feared that mutations might nullify the hard work of those who developed the vaccine, and we can be thankful that, for the most part, this has not happened. However, the coronavirus certainly does give us an example of mutations that increase survival rates—and thus (says Darwinian logic) *all* the various forms of life could have arisen from such mutations, simply by chance.

But this article itself shows us why the Darwinian story doesn't work:

> *Viruses aren't infinitely mutable*; sometimes, to keep themselves in contention, they must make sacrifices. Several experts told me they're hopeful that the coronavirus might struggle to max out both transmission and immune evasion at once, requiring some sort of trade-off between the two. . . . There is, in other words, probably a limit to just how bad SARS-CoV-2 can get: *Even the most careful dog breeders cannot turn a bulldog into a bear*. (Wu, 2021, emphasis added)

Did the writer understand the implications of that last statement? If even the most careful breeding cannot turn a dog into a bear, if mutations have definite limits, then Darwinism is false: you simply *cannot* construct all the various forms of life by stacking beneficial mutations on top of each other. Instead, organisms reproduce "after their kinds"—just as we read in Genesis.

Millions—or billions—of years don't solve the problem either. Great lengths of time can accomplish only a more complete exploration of the mutation space—which won't help if that space has hard and fast limits. In fact, coronaviruses (along with other cold viruses, and the flu) seem to be unusual in having such a *large* mutation range: a single vaccine sufficed for smallpox, and another for polio. It's tempting to say that if the coronavirus is not infinitely mutable—even under massive selective pressure—then nothing is.



So where does this leave us? Clearly, organisms are designed to vary within definite limits—but this is a far cry from Darwinism. The Galapagos finches have not become hummingbirds or eagles. The peppered moths have not become bees or butterflies. Nor can the coronavirus become an ameba or an ant—not even with millions of years.

References

Wu, Katherine J. 2021. The coronavirus could get worse. *The Atlantic*, August 4. Online at https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/08/coronavirus-evolution-vaccines/619875/https://www.theatlantic.com/ science/archive/2021/08/coronavirus-evolution-vaccines/619875/. Accessed June 1, 2022.

Summaries of Cutting– Edge Research from the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*

Summaries compiled by Jean K. Lightner, DVM , MS

It is crucial for creation research to investigate the world around us while engaging the current scientific literature and Scripture as we build the creation model in various scientific fields. CRS exists to support and publish such research. Only through high quality research can we equip Christians with strong, sound apologetic arguments that demonstrate the robustness of the creation model in understanding the world around us.

Adaptation Fits the Biblical Nzarrative

For generations, we have been told that adaptation is the result of random mutations and natural selection. It fits the atheistic narrative well, as these changes are seen as natural processes - no designer required. Blind cavefish have been used as an example of this, as the observed differences in individuals adapted to the dark, resource-scarce environment of caves were assumed to be the result of these naturalistic mechanisms. However, scientific research is undermining this naturalistic dogma.

In the Spring issue of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (*CRSQ*), an extensive literature review and analysis of cavefish within a creation model is presented by scientists from the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) (Tomkins et al, 2022). They note the rapid, repeatable, and complex organism-wide adaptations in cavefish occur in a way that contradicts the naturalistic storytelling. Instead, the pattern fits better in a model that recognizes a Creator who engineered living systems to detect changes in their environment and make appropriate metabolic, physiologic, and behavioral changes to adapt. Tomkins et al., have proposed (and begun) using cavefish as a model system for further developing their continuous environmental tracking (CET) model that examines adaptation from an engineering perspective. We look forward to further research from this project which will shed light on the awesome design of God's creatures, bringing glory to their Creator!

Tomkins, J.P., S. Arledge, and R.J. Guliuzza. 2022. Catching the vision: Blind cave fish (*Astyanax mexicanus*) as a model system for continuous environmental tracking and adaptive engineering. *CRSQ* 58:289-296.

Evidence for Flood Erosion

Evolutionists tell some impressive sounding stories about how various geologic formations originated. Closer investigation often reveals these imaginative tales are unrealistic. The Spring 2022 issue of the *CRSQ* contains a detailed investigation of the Rowena Gap planation surfaces, a feature of the Cascade Anticlinorium along the Oregon-Washington border. Isaacs (2022) examines the structure and stratigraphy of the Cascade Anticlinorium, as well as the geology of the Rowena Gap to find that the secular antecedent river hypothesis is implausible. Such pervasive erosion at such a high elevation seems to only be adequately explained by the Genesis Flood.

Isaacs, E.A. 2022. Planations of Rowena Gap along the Oregon/Washington border: Support for Flood erosion of the Cascade Anticlinorium. *CRSQ* 58:279-288.

Understanding Ice Cores

Ice cores have long been used by evolutionists to support their ideas of deep time. Dr. Jake Hebert has built on earlier work by Dr. Larry Vardiman as he seeks to improve our understanding of ice sheets, including how they behave and the significance of the thin layers. In the Spring issue of the *CRSQ*, Hebert (2022) considers the work of M.W. Mahaffy, whose simple model allows for time-varying and the mathematical solution for a shallow ice dome with a frozen base. Then, future steps towards a more realistic young-earth ice sheet model are outlined.

Hebert, J. 2022. Towards a more realistic young-earth ice sheet model: A shallow, isothermal ice dome with a frozen base. *CRSQ* 58:262-272.

Scripture: Advancing Science and Technology

Some readers may be familiar with Matthew Maury (1806-1873), who was inspired by Psalm 8:8 to find "the paths of the seas" that it mentions. His systematic study of ship logs enabled him to glean detailed information about ocean currents, winds, and weather, enabling safer and more effective oceanic travel.

Dr. James J. S. Johnson (2022) extends this study with a detailed look at the wording of Psalm 8:8 and a look at recent research in the coastal seawaters of Antarctica. He points out the verse is discussing the well-attested observation that animate marine creatures ("fish" in the broader biblical sense, which includes

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marine mammals and perhaps cephalopods) actively cross these currents. This is further confirmation that the Bible provides a robust foundation for understanding our world.

Can Scripture and the study of creation provide a robust foundation for engineering and entrepreneurship? An excellent affirmative case is made by Dr. Mark Horstemeyer, et al. (2022) in the Spring issue of the *CRSQ*. Rather than seeing science, design, engineering, and entrepreneurship as separate concepts or disciplines, they present an integrated view, using a wealth of Scriptural examples and historical observations in making their points. They set a foundation for a future that integrates engineering and business practice for technological entrepreneurship from a biblical basis.

Horstemeyer, M.F., A. Adebayo, M. Jantomaso, J.L. Long, S. Burgess, and A. McIntosh. 2022. Creationeering™: An integrated engineering-business paradigm for technological entrepreneurship from a biblical basis. *CRSQ* 58:238-261.

Johnson, J.J.S. 2022. Researching 'sea-paths' near Antarctica and in Psalm 8:8 – are sea creatures actively or passively 'passing through' ocean currents? *CRSQ* 58:273-278.

… if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:3-6 NIV

Continued creation research is made possible by the generous gifts (time, money, and prayer) of our many supporters. Thanks to all who have contributed!

Creation Research Society (CRS) Board Elections Are Coming

Nominees:

David Boyd

Rob Carter

Tim Clarey

Danny Faulkner

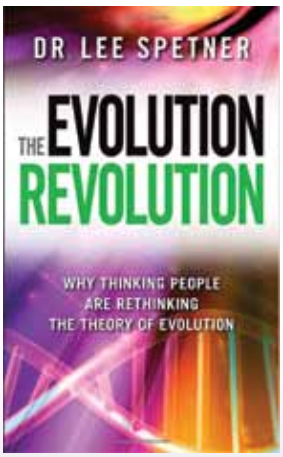
Bob Hill

Yingguang Liu

Georgia Purdom

Tichomir Tenev

Ballots will be mailed to voting members in October 2022. The ballots are due back by December 15, 2022.



The Evolution Revolution:

Why Thinking People are Rethinking the Theory of Evolution

Dr. Lee Spetner. 2020. Judaica Press, 168 pages (hard cover)

Dr. Spetner's previous book, "Not By Chance," provided a devastating critique of the failure of Darwinian evolution to offer a valid genetic mechanism for the massive changes required by universal common descent. His latest book continues this theme, providing an updated genetic analysis of biological change. He cites growing evidence that many mutations are not random, but appear to be part of a far-reaching designed program. He also addresses problems with the evolutionists' arguments of the C-paradox and junk DNA. As Dr. Spetner concludes in the book's epilogue, Darwinists appear to be insecure in their beliefs, whistling in the dark "to reassure themselves as well as the public that their ideas are not foolish."

Available in the CRS bookstore:
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Research is our middle name

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Prayer Matters

Praise: We thank God for another remarkably successful CRS conference!

Prayer: We ask for your continued prayers as CRS endeavors to be more effective in supporting, conducting, and publishing original creation research. We need the CRS grants to be well promoted and funded. Also needed are a new lab director who can effectively teach and oversee the lab, and someone who can guide the final phases of the iDino lab research that Dr. Anderson was overseeing when he died.

Thanks Again!

The Creation Research Society (CRS) is now accepting new research grant applications!

Grants for research focused on building the creation model are accepted from August 15th through April 30th.

See our website
[Research Grants tab under the Research tab]

www.creationresearch.org/vacrc-research-grants

For more information or to help support the Society:

(928) 636-1153